

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on February 18, 2010, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 10-19 and 30 are pending in this application, where claims 20-29 had been previously canceled without prejudice, and claims 8-9 have been currently canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications. Claim 1 is independent.

In the Office Action, claims 8-9 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Without agreeing and to advance prosecution, claims 8-9 have been currently canceled without prejudice, and claims 16-19 have been amended for better conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection of claims 8-9 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.


In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 3 for a certain informality. Without agreeing and to advance prosecution, claim 3 has been amended to remove the alleged informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-7, 10-15 and 30 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 1-7, 10-15 and 30 are allowed. Further, as the rejection to claims 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and the objection to claim 3 have been overcome, it is respectfully requested that claims 3 and 16-19 also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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